

Message Text

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41

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 PC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 /071 W

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R 092215Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7175

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMCHDDFLSAN JOSE

USCINCSO

AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 0111

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OAS, ES, DR, PA, CR

SUBJECT: SALVADORAN POSITION ON ELECTION OF OAS SECRETARY GENERAL

REF: SAN SALVADOR 3595, SEPT 9, 1974

1. SUMMARY. THERE ARE A NUMBER OF INDICATIONS THAT EL SALVADOR'S COMMITMENT TO THE CANDIDACY OF PARAGUAYAN FON MIN SAPENA PASTOR FOR OAS SECRETARY GENERAL IS WEAKENING. INSTEAD, THE GOES IS REPORTEDLY PREPARED TO BACK DOMINICAN FON MIN GOMEZ BERGES OR COSTA RICAN FON MIN FACIO. SOME OBSERVERS HAVE ALSO RAISED THE NAME OF SALVADORAN UN AMBASSADOR GALINDO POHL AS A WELL QUALIFIED COMPROMISE CANDIDATE, BUT WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER HE IS INTERESTED IN THE JOB.

END SUMMARY.

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2. FON OFF DIRECTOR OF AMERICAN AFFAIRS DR. MANUEL GUTIERREZ

RUIZ TOLD ECON OFF JANUARY 3 THAT GOES HAS DECIDED TO SUPPORT CANDIDACY OF DOMINICAN FON MIN GOMEZ BERGES FOR OAS SECRETARY GENERAL. HE DID NOT OFFER EXPLANATION FOR ALLEGED GOES DECISION TO DROP PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED COMMITMENT TO PARAGUAYAN FON MIN SAPENA PASTOR (REFTEL).

4. "REPORTE", A SMALL CIRCULATION BUT INFLUENTIAL, BUSINESS-ORIENTED NEWSPAPER, RAN A FRONT PAGE ARTICLE JANUARY 3 SPECULATING THAT A COSTA RICAN CANDIDATE FOR OAS SECRETARY GENERAL (READ FACIO) MIGHT YET JURFACE WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE OTHER CAS. THE ARTICLE REASONED THAT A SMALL COUNTRY IS ENTITLED TO WIN THE POSITION SINCE ALL PREVIOUS SECRETARIES GENERAL HAVE BEEN SOUTH AMERICANS. WITHOUT MENTIONING ANY NAMES, IT DISMISSED SAPENA'S CANDIDACY BY ARGUING THAT THE POSSIBLE PARAGUAYAN, PERUVIAN AND BOLIVIAN CANDIDATES ARE NOT VIABLE BECAUSE THEY ARE AT ODDS ("ESTAN EN PUGNA POLITICA") WITH THEIR RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS. (COMMENT: SALVADORAN AMBASSADOR TO CHILE JOSE MIXCO F., A FORMER AMBASSADOR TO PARAGUAY WHO HAS EXTREMELY CLOSE AND CONTINUING CONTACTS WITH GOP OFFICIALS, FROM PRESIDENT STROESSNER DOWN, COMMENTED SIMILARLY ON SAPENA PASTOR TO ECON OFF JAN 7.) IT ALSO BRUSHED ASIDE GOMEZ BERGES' CANDIDACY BY ASSERTING THAT THE "CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES" DO NOT HAVE A CANDIDATE WITH INTERNATIONAL PRESTIGE.

REPORTE CONCLUDED THAT THE CHANCES OF SUCCESS FOR A CENTRAL AMERICAN CANDIDATE ARE "BRILLIANT" AND URGED THE CA FON MINS TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS TOWARD THAT END IMMEDIATELY.

4. COMMENT. WHILE WE BELIEVE THAT EL SALVADOR'S COMMITMENT TO SAPENA HAS ERODED SIGNIFICANTLY, WE HAVE NO HIGH LEVEL GOES CONFIRMATION THAT IT HAS SWITCHED ITS SUPPORT TO GOMEZ BERGES. FON MIN BORGONOVO SEVERAL MONTHS AGO TOLD PARAGUAYAN AMBASSADOR VOLTA GAONA THAT FACIO HAD LAUNCHED A QUIET CAMPAIGN FOR THE POSITION. SINCE EL SALVADOR'S COMMITMENT TO SAPENA HAD BEEN CONDITIONED ON THE ABSENCE OF A CENTRAL AMERICAN CANDIDATE, THE IMPLICATION WAS THAT THE GOES WOULD BACK FACIO IF HE ANNOUNCED HIS CANDIDACY. NEVERTHELESS, SOME SALVADORAN DIPLOMATS REGARD FACIO AS BURNED BY THE QUITO MFM AND HAVE SUGGESTED THAT DR. REYNALDO GALINDO POHL, A RESPECTED INTERNATIONAL LAWYER AND SALVADORAN AMBASSADOR TO THE UN, WOULD BE A WELL QUALIFIED, HIGHLY ACCEPTABLE COMPROMISE CANDIDATE. HOWEVER, WE

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HAVE NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT GALINDO IS INTERESTED IN THE JOB.
MOSKOWITZ

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